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When Henry Cooper went off he sent me word that he should take care & not let a single stolen horse go in his company; but notwithstanding Col. Johnson went in the same company, he, or his gang, carried off several. Ben Lanier tried to take the horses from him, but was near loosing his life in the attempt. As soon as I heard of it, which was not for several days after I received the first intelligence from Esquire Lanier, (whose letter I enclose to your honor), I followed Cooper to St. Mary's, but was afraid of creating a misunderstanding between this State & that Province. Had I crossed the river I believe I could have the chief of all the rogues that infests this State, as St. Mary's is their principal harbour; but I was afraid of censure.

The people, generally, seem determined to pursue those fellows to St. John's if there is not a stop put to their robing & plundering. For my part, I, nor my people, will not attempt it without orders. I have lived on the frontiers for more than seven months, and there has been but two horses stolen in that time within twenty miles of me, either by Indians or by Tories; & those two have both been restored, for those rogues are afraid to come into this settlement. There are people coming from Florida, every day, especially Colo. Brown's core, & no body has as yet interrupted them.

I would be obliged to your honor if your honor would let me have the ammunition you promised me when in Augusta, & send it by the bearer, Peter Benson, also a few flints, as they are very scarce with us.

I remain with great respect, your Honor's most obedient & humbl serv't,

PATRICK CARR.

Copy of a letter from Patrick Tonyn, Governor of East Florida, to his Excellency, John Martin, Governor of Georgia.

St. Augustine, 28th August, '82.

Sir:—

I have the honor of receiving your letter of the 15th instant, by the Flag of Truce, the Hepsebeth, and papers relative thereto in which you nominate William McIntosh, Samuel Stirk & John Wereat, Esquires, Commissioners to negotiate concerning the mode of carrying on the War in future upon liberal principles so as to prevent plundering & marauding parties from disturbing the settlements in Geor-

gia and in this province, that industrious inhabitants of both countries may unmolested pursue their occupations.

From the commencement of this unnatural and pernicious War the temper of East Florida had ever discountenanced cruel predatory incursions, as answering no good purpose for procuring the great object of War, Peace and accommodation; and until impelled from the sufferings of the people by depredations & excesses, no hostilities, sir, on our parts had been made which was then necessary in our defence.

Desirous of preserving the same moderation previous to the receipt of your letter, strict orders were given to the military acting under my authority not to pass the boundary of this Province, and by no means to be guilty of cruelty or plunder; and the Provincial Legislature has framed no laws to authorize such proceedings. The officers of law and justice in this Province have the laws of Great Britain alone to direct their decisions.

A distinguishing mark of civilization is to conduct War with humanity, to avoid whatever is cruel, and does not answer good purposes to the community. Provided therefore your people commit no depredations and hostilities upon the plantations in this Province, of which I shall be happy to have assurances from you by letter, I shall and do engage that the most positive and express orders shall be given that no plunder or depredations be committed by any marauding parties, acting under my authority, and if contrary to these orders and intentions any irregularities should be done, that every satisfaction in my power shall be made.

As I have, by virtue of my Royal Master, sufficient power to effectuate these purposes, it is not necessary on my part to negotiate with Commissioners, and I trust on yours every effectual step will be taken to establish these measures of equal force, weight, and efficacy in Georgia as in East Florida.

When a prevailing spirit of moderation and a regard to the property of individuals are manifest, I take the liberty of mentioning the circumstance of depriving persons of their estates who were respectable inhabitants of Georgia. If a firm and manly conduct in vicissitude, so much the admiration of all ages, and a fixed adherence to principles openly, and uniformly avowed by men deemed honorable characters become a crime, they are certainly highly culpable. Convinced however I am that upon cool, dispassionate consideration, such conduct must command

the esteem and respect of all good men, nothing can give me so great pleasure as an accommodation settled and established between Great Britain and America conducive to the interest of both, that the United Nation may increase its pristine lustre and glory. I hope until that happy period we shall conduct the contest with becoming moderation and as little as possible to the disadvantage of industrious, peaceable inhabitants of both countries; and I trust, sir, that this spirit in your Government will show itself by paving the way to such desirable end, and I shall take care that no Provincial laws be sanctioned here to clog such reconciliations, and every countenance in my power, consistent with my duty to the best of Sovereigns, shall be given to proceedings founded upon humane and beneficial principles.

I have therefore directed Mr. Forbes to supply you with such necessaries as are proper in our situation & shall in future study to carry on an intercourse not inconsistent with my duty and the law of nations.

It was my particular care that the gentlemen sent in your flag were lodged in the most respectable families, and that proper attention was shown them.

I have the honor to be, etc.,

Representation of the Deputies to Governor Martin,

Savannah, 5th December, 1782.

As your Excellency has applied to us for the substance of what passed between us as your deputies & his Excellency, Governor Tonyn, of the Province of East Florida, we beg leave that his Excellency's dispatches were made up & sealed for transmission before we were called upon, but this we well remember, when we had an audience with his Excellency he informed us that every thing necessary was mentioned in his letter which he delivered us, but at the same time said that altho' this State would not make incursions upon the Province of East Florida, yet if people from other States were permitted to come through this for that purpose, or to proceed by the inland passage it might be a means of frustrating the intentions of both countries. To this we replied that no predatory parties should be permitted to pass through our country by land for any such purpose, also that as far as it was in the power of this State, the inland passage should secure that if any property was

taken by boats and brought here the same should be secured, but that we could not be answerable for those who might come from other States, and carry off any of the property of East Florida to any other part of the Continent, as our State was not competent to take notice of or punish them. His Excellency, Governor Tonyn, also expressed some apprehensions of a set of men who set themselves down between the two countrys and pay no obedience to the laws of either, that notwithstanding the good intentions of that government and our own some disorders might be committed by such a lawless banditti, and that should this happen every step should be taken to secure & punish such offenders.

LETTER FROM SAMUEL STIRK TO BRIGADIER GENERAL TWIGGS.

Samuel Stirk, the author of the following letter, was a Georgian of distinction, but it is a matter of regret that very little is known of his life. He is supposed to have been born in Georgia, but of this we are not certain. The records show that besides Samuel there was a John as well as a Benjamin Stirk, and the name of Mrs. Hannah Stirk also appears.

When the Executive Council was chosen for 1777, John Adam Treutlen having defeated Button Gwinnett for the office of Governor, Mr. Stirk was appointed the clerk of that body.

The Assembly which convened in Augusta on the 16th day of August, 1781, elected him a delegate to the Continental Congress. We find in the Journals of the Continental Congress that his credentials were twice read, showing that he was certainly entitled to a seat, but there is no evidence of his ever having been seated.

The same Legislature appointing him to the Continental Congress later elected him Attorney General of Georgia in January, 1783; and about the same time he was appointed a Commissioner from Georgia to treat with Governor Patrick Tonyn, of East Florida, for the settlement of the differences and the prevention of future difficulties along the line of the St. Mary's river.

He was a Lieutenant Colonel in 1778 and 1779 in the service of the State, and was with Gwinnett in the disastrous expedition against East Florida.